

Application No.: **10/016,042**
Amendment Dated: 14 June 2004

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's examination of the subject Application and request that reexamination of the claims and reconsideration of the Application be made in view of the above amendments and the following remarks:

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present Application.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 18 and 20

In the Action, claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,307,318 issued to *Nemoto*. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to more explicitly claim a module control for receiving and maintaining selected data and control signals transmitted to an electronic circuit.

Regarding Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, and 18

The Action contends that *Nemoto '318* discloses an apparatus comprising a reserve power source (12) connected to the power supply voltage, the reserve power source for providing a module voltage to the electronic circuit and further for maintaining the module voltage for a predetermined amount of time after an anomaly has occurred in the supplied power voltage. The Applicants respectfully contend that the reference teaches the use of two unconnected power supplies rather than connected power supplies as in the claimed invention.

The Applicants claim, in the first clauses of claims 1 and 11, a reserve power source (131) connected to a supplied power voltage V_{CC} at power port 123. In comparison, *Nemoto '318* teaches a main power source 11 connected to a main source terminal 110 and a backup power source 12 connected to a backup source terminal 111 (col. 3, lines 11-15 and col. 7, lines 29-32). The reference main power source 11 is thus not connected to the reference backup power source 12. The Applicants therefore contend that claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated by *Nemoto '318*.

The Action further contends that *Nemoto '318* discloses an apparatus comprising a module control for maintaining selected data and control signals transmitted to the

Application No.: 10/016,042

Amendment Dated: 14 June 2004

electronic circuit during occurrence of an anomaly in the supplied power voltage. The Examiner appears to infer that the AND gate 113 is equivalent to the claimed module control (127), and that either the access grant signal 114 or the reference access signal 115 is equivalent to the claimed data and control signals (18, 16) per the citation at col. 5, lines 14-22. In accordance with this interpretation, the Applicants assert that the reference teaches the use of an AND gate which does not receive selected data and control signals as in the claimed invention.

The Applicants claim, in the second clauses of claims 1 and 11 as amended, a module control for receiving and maintaining selected data and control signals transmitted to the electronic circuit. The selected data and control signals claimed in the present invention are external data and control signals (18 and 16) provided to the electronic circuit, such as the processor 129 or the memory 121. In comparison, the reference access signal 115 taught by *Nemoto '318* is an internal signal provided to a data storage unit 17 (col. 5, lines 16-18). Moreover, the internal signal 115 serves to prohibit access to the data storage unit (col. 5, lines 27-28) rather than maintaining critical signals (e.g., the data signals 18 and the control signals 16) as claimed in the present Application. Accordingly, the Applicants further contend that claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated by *Nemoto '318*.

Regarding Claims 10, 12, and 20

The Action also contends that *Nemoto '318* discloses an apparatus wherein the module control functions to hold an external reset signal 114 in an inactive state in response to an occurrence of an anomaly in the supplied power voltage. The Applicants respectfully submit that contend that *Nemoto '318* discloses an access grant signal 114, not a reset signal, and that the access grant signal 114 is an internal signal, not an external signal as in the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Applicants contend that claims 10, 12 and 20 are not, therefore, anticipated by *Nemoto '318* and should be allowed.

Application No.: 10/016,042
Amendment Dated: 14 June 2004

Claims 7, 8, and 19

In the Action, claims 7, 8, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nemoto '318*.

Regarding Claim 7

The Action contends that *Nemoto '318* discloses the apparatus of claim 5 wherein the differential comparator comprises a diode, where the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use a Schottky diode, as claimed by the Applicants. The Applicants respectfully submit that, as claim 5 depends from claim 1, and the rejection of claim 1 has been addressed by the above arguments and amendment, the same arguments are applicable to claim 7. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claim 7 is not unpatentable over *Nemoto '318* and should be allowed.

Regarding Claims 8 and 19

The Action contends that *Nemoto '318* discloses the apparatus of claim 1, where the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide an energy storage device such as a capacitor to supply energy wherein a predetermined amount of time is about 5 to 500 μ sec. The Applicants respectfully submit that, as claim 8 depends from claim 1 and claim 19 depends from claim 11, and the rejection of claims 1 and 11 have been addressed by the above arguments and amendment, the same arguments are applicable to claims 8 and 19. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claims 8 and 19 are not unpatentable over *Nemoto '318* and should be allowed.

Regarding Claim 17

The Action contends that *Nemoto '318* discloses the apparatus of claim 11, where the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by to include the step of filtering the supplied power voltage and module voltage to reduce power supply noise. The Applicants respectfully submit that, as claim 17 depends from claim 11, and the rejection of claim 11 has been addressed by the

Application No.: 10/016,042
Amendment Dated: 14 June 2004

above arguments and amendment, the same arguments can be applied to claim 17. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claim 17 is not unpatentable over *Nemoto '318* and should be allowed.

Claims 2 and 13

In the Action, claims 7, 8, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nemoto '318* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,426,571 issued to Doron.

Regarding Claims 2 and 13

The Action contends that *Nemoto '318* discloses a battery for maintaining a module voltage in the differential comparator for a predetermined amount of time after an anomaly has occurred in the supplied power voltage and that *Doron '571* discloses using a capacitor as a power source to provide temporary power. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the teachings of *Nemoto '318* wherein the differential comparator comprises a capacitor to provide backup power to the module to compensate for temporary power disruption in the supplied power voltage. The Applicants respectfully submit that, as claim 2 depends from claim 1 and that as claim 13 depends from claim 11, the rejection of claims 1 and 11 have been addressed by the above arguments and amendment, the same arguments are applicable to claims 2 and 13. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claim 2 and 13 are not unpatentable over *Nemoto '318* in view of *Doron '571* and should be allowed.

Claims 3, 4, 14, 15, and 16

In the Action, claims 3, 4, 14, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nemoto '318* in view of *Doron '571* in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,862,046 issued to Farine.

Regarding Claims 3, 14, and 16

The Action contends that *Nemoto '318* in view of *Doron '571* disclose wherein the reserve power source comprises at least one of a battery and a capacitor for maintaining

Application No.: 10/016,042
Amendment Dated: 14 June 2004

the module voltage, where the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to include a converter wherein the converter included an inductance. The Applicants respectfully submit that, as claim 3 depends from claim 1 and that as claims 14 and 16 depend from claim 11, and as the rejection of claims 1 and 11 have been addressed by the above arguments and amendment, the same arguments are applicable to claims 3, 14, and 16. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claims 3, 14, and 16 are not unpatentable over *Nemoto '318* and in view of *Doron '571* and in further view of *Farine '046* and should be allowed.

Regarding Claims 4 and 15

The Action contends that *Nemoto '318* in view of *Doron '571* and in further view of *Farine '046* disclose the apparatus of claim 3 wherein the reserve power source further comprises a diode switch adapted to prevent discharging of the module voltage if the supplied power voltage decreases. The Applicants respectfully submit that, as claim 4 depends from claim 3 which depends from claim 1 and that as claim 15 depends from claim 11, and as the rejection of claims 1 and 11 have been addressed by the above arguments and amendment, the same arguments are applicable to claims 4 and 15. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that claims 4 and 15 are not unpatentable over *Nemoto '318* and in view of *Doron '571* and in further view of *Farine '046* and should be allowed.

Claim 9

In the Action, claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nemoto '318* in view of *Farine '046*.

Regarding Claim 9

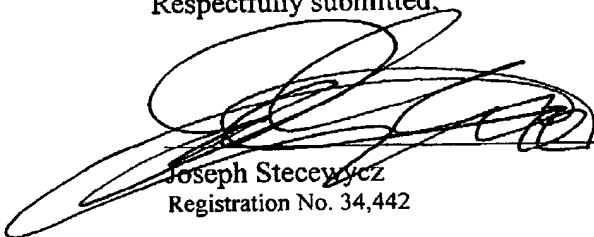
The Action contends that *Farine '046* discloses a converter to restore energy to the power supply. The Applicants respectfully submit that as claim 9 depends from claim 1, and as the rejection of claim 1 has been addressed by the above arguments and amendment, the same arguments are applicable to claim 9. Accordingly, the Applicants

Application No.: 10/016,042
Amendment Dated: 14 June 2004

submit that claim 9 is not unpatentable over *Nemoto* '318 and in view of *Farine* '046 and should be allowed.

If the Examiner feels that additional discussion and/or amendment is needed to place the Application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' representative at the number appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,



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